



Legacy Health  
1919 N.W. Lovejoy St.  
Portland, OR 97209  
503.415.5600 *phone*  
503.415.5777 *fax*

May 4, 2023

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education  
Oregon State Legislature  
Salem, Oregon

Re: Oregon Behavioral Health Coordination Center

Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of the Committee:

Legacy Health supports the funding request for the Oregon Behavioral Health Coordination Center (OBCC), which will provide real-time data on bed capacity and available placement options for behavioral health patients.

Legacy is a nonprofit health system that serves patients and communities from Silverton, Oregon to Vancouver, Washington. Our integrated network includes primary care and specialty clinics, partnerships in urgent care centers, and nationally recognized community hospitals. This includes the Unity Center for Behavioral Health, a 107-bed acute inpatient psychiatric facility, serving adults and adolescents, with 24/7 adult psychiatric emergency services (PES).

The single largest challenge as an inpatient behavioral health facility is the length of stay, which is due in part to poor coordination and lack of real-time visibility into available capacity of existing behavioral health services. Currently staff spend hours calling from facility to facility to locate an open bed for each patient needing to be transferred to a different level of care. The OBCC will help our teams place patients in the appropriate setting in a more efficient and timely manner.

The OBCC will be a statewide resource that will benefit patients and hospitals across the state. It will also quantify gaps in Oregon's behavioral health continuum of care, which will allow state, federal and local resources to be focused where they can make the greatest impact for patients.

Legacy Health urges you to support funding the Oregon Behavioral Health Coordination Center.

Sincerely,

Melissa L. Eckstein, MSSW, MBA, LCSW-S  
President  
Unity Center for Behavioral Health